AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the presently pending claims as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A method enabling a user of a communications network, having a microphone connected to said communications network, to be securely and rapidly identified by another user of said communications network, notably a provider-user providing services to said user;

said method comprising the following steps:

the provider-user makes available to each of the relevant users, a mobile object, notably a card with the credit card format, customized by identifiers specific to each user and to each mobile object,

said mobile object emits short identification acoustical signals ~~notably of the DTMF type~~, when it is actuated by the user, notably by means of a button,

the identification acoustical signals are received by the microphone and converted into electrical signals, before being transmitted via the communications network to the computer department of the provider-user,

the computer department of the provider-user manages a data base containing the voice prints of the user,

the computer department of the provider-user extracts from the received electrical signals, the location of ~~th~~ the area of the data base containing the identifiers and the voice print of the relevant user having emitted said identification acoustical signals by actuating said mobile object,

the user emits in clear a series of phonemes, by means of said microphone

said phonemes are processed by voice recognition means after the transmission to the computer department of the provider-user, via the communications network, and

the resulting signal is compared with said voice print of

the relevant user, located at said location of the area of the database containing the voice print of the relevant user so that,

(i) only two voice prints are compared with each other,

(ii) a hacker having a stolen or closed card will not be able to usurp the identity of the legitimate bearer.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the identification acoustical signals emitted by the card are invariable.

3. (Original) The method according to any of the claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the voice print is recorded in said data base during initialization of the mobile object.

4. (Original) The method according to any of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said phonemes are predetermined.

5. (Original) The method according to any of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said phonemes are defined by the computer department of the provider-user and repeated by the user in the microphone during the identification phase.

6.(Currently Amended) A system enabling a user of a communications network to be securely and rapidly identified by another user of said communications network, notably a user-service provider, providing services to said user,

said system comprising:

mobile objects made available to the users, notably a card with a credit card format, customized by identifiers specific to each mobile object and to each user; said mobile object including means for emitting short identification acoustical signals, ~~notably of the DTMF type,~~ actuated by the user by means of a component accessible from the outside of the mobile object,

microphones connected to said communications network,

(a) for receiving a transforming said identification acoustical signals from said mobile objects into first electronic signals which may be remotely transmitted by means of said communications network, and

(b) for receiving and transforming phonemes emitted in clear by the users, into second electronic signals which may be remotely transmitted by means of said communications network;

said system also comprising:

computing means, depending on the computer departments of the provider-user, connected to the communications network;

said computing means comprising:

a data base containing the voice prints of the users,

first processing means including means for extracting from said first signals, the location of the area of the data base containing the identifiers and the voice print of the relevant user having emitted said identification acoustical signals by actuating said component accessible from the outside of the mobile object,

second processing means including means for extracting said second signals, a representative signal of the voice print of the user,

comparison means including means for comparing

the voice print of the user contained in the said area of the data base, located in said location with said representative signal of the voice print extracted from said second signals.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, characterized in that said identification acoustical signals emitted by said mobile objects are invariable.

8. (Original) The system according to any of claims 6 or 7, characterized in that it comprises recording means for recording

the voice print in said data base during initialization of the mobile object.

9. (Original) The system according to any of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that said phonemes are predetermined.

10. (Original) The system according to any of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that the computer department comprises calculating means for calculating said phonemes and transmission means for transmitting said phonemes to a loud speaker (17a) located in the vicinity of the user.